

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and I am proud to honor them and their work today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, my scheduled flight into Washington was cancelled yesterday for mechanical reasons. As a result, I was absent from the House Floor during Tuesday's rollcall vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 49.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,359,384,163,919.51. We've added \$10,557,978,988,625.23 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT OF MR. JIM BERGDAHL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Jim Bergdahl, on his retirement from the federal government after 52 years of service.

Jim Bergdahl was born and raised in Chicago, was educated at Northwestern, and served in the Air National Guard while attending college.

In 1959, during his senior year at Northwestern, Jim began his federal civil service career as an appraiser with the Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago. Six years later, he joined the General Services Administration in the San Francisco regional office as an appraiser in the Real Property Division.

Jim's work quickly caught the attention of his supervisors. He was soon nominated for and received a "Career Education Award", sponsored by the National Institute of Public Affairs and the Civil Service Commission. The prize for receiving this prestigious award was one year of free graduate study at the University of Virginia.

Following graduation, Jim relocated to the Office of Real Property in Washington, D.C. where he was in charge of reviewing the fast growing Federal property holdings, which had literally doubled between 1954 and 1969. The government was on pace to own the whole

country by the year 2000. Jim was asked to determine the cause of this tremendous expansion.

As he quickly discovered, while U.S. federal land holdings had doubled, the phenomenon was directly related to the increase in the number of States in the U.S. between 1954 and 1969. Jim determined that the newest state, Alaska, had the distinction of having more government-owned land within its borders than all of the other 49 States combined. Case closed.

In 1974, Jim transferred to the Federal Buildings Fund Management Division to help get the new division up and running. Here he again was tapped for a special project, working to develop critical information to persuade the Department of Defense to correct congressional testimony as to the total amount they were spending on rent. In short order, the record was corrected.

Following that daunting yet successful challenge, Jim returned to the Office of Real Property as Program Policy Advisor to the Assistant Commissioner in 1976. He played a major role in the establishment of the Federal Property Resources Service, where he became Director of Special Projects. One project involved the sale to the public of a large number of Carson City Silver Dollars minted in the 1800s that were found in a vault. The sale began just as the Hunt brothers were trying to corner the silver market and the price of silver skyrocketed. Suddenly, the coins were worth more for the silver they contained than their value to coin collectors. To avoid delaying or postponing sales of the coins, toll free phone lines were set up for buyers to obtain the price of the coins based on the price of silver each day. This fast action by Jim and his office was fortuitous. Shortly after the sales were completed, the Hunt brothers failed in their attempt to corner the market and silver prices collapsed.

The curtain rose on Jim's final act as a civil servant when the new Public Building Service was rolled out in 1995. Jim was part of the Courthouse Management Group, formed to provide oversight, program management and budgeting for the largest federal courthouse construction program in the nation's history. As a senior member of the Group, Jim provided extensive knowledge and expertise in many aspects of the federal courthouse program, working with Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and the federal Judiciary, as well as regional GSA offices to see that the ambitious program succeeded. When he retired this year, he was the last charter member still remaining with the agency.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Bergdahl on his retirement from the federal service. During Jim's successful 52 year career, he was a model employee, consistently recognized by his peers and his congressional colleagues as providing the highest level of professionalism, superior subject knowledge, and willingness to take on and solve even the toughest problems. I wish him only the very best as he continues tackling new endeavors and conquering even greater challenges in the years ahead.

PASSING OF MRS. FRANCES BROCK STARMS FEBRUARY 9, 2012

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of Mrs. Frances Brock Starms, a compassionate leader, educator, writer and advocate for children who passed away on February 9, 2012, at the age of 97.

She was considered a treasure by our community and an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Epsilon Kappa Omega Chapter), Links Inc. (Milwaukee Chapter), Town & Country Garden Club, Jack and Jill of America Inc., Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society, Milwaukee Urban League, and a lifetime member of the N.A.A.C.P.

Frances Starms was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, and she graduated with honors from Spelman College. She continued her education at Atlanta University, receiving a Master of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Her postgraduate work included scholarly research at the University of Southern California and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2004, she was recognized by UWM with an honorary doctorate in Public Service.

In 1948, Frances Starms moved to Wisconsin and continued her career as an educator with Milwaukee Public Schools, MPS. During her teaching career, she became the first African American to be appointed as director of the Head Start Program.

Mrs. Starms was one of few living Milwaukeeans after whom a Milwaukee Public School had been named; in fact, three schools now claim her as namesake: Starms Early Childhood Center, Starms Monumental Baptist Early Childhood Center, and Starms Discovery Learning Center.

Mrs. Starms was a prolific writer and received numerous awards and citations for her work. She was published in numerous local and national publications and was best known for her poems which focused on the richness and enduring strength of the African American Heritage. Her book entitled "Love is Best" expressed the beauty and texture of this heritage.

Her poetry was described as coming straight from the "heart" and reflected the elegance and authenticity of her own experience, reaching out to children and adults alike. For her commitment to our children and for her many efforts and gifts, Mrs. Starms was awarded with the 1979 Award for Meritorious Service from the UW-Milwaukee School of Education; 1983 Special Citation from Governor Tony Earl for her inclusion in the Smithsonian Institute/Wisconsin Humanities Committee exhibit "Black Women Achievement Against the Odds"; the 1984 Sarah Scott Administrative Leadership Award from the Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators for her leadership and commitment to improving educational opportunities for children; 1989 G.A.E.P. Award from Delta Sigma Gamma Society International Sigma State for the publication of her poetry; and was the recipient of St. Marks's Anvil Award for service to the church and the community. Mrs. Starms